

Take Control of Your Life with Tarot



By
Spirit Reader

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Chapter 1: Introduction

For generations, the Tarot has been used by clairvoyants, spiritualists, and hobbyists to uncover hidden truths and illuminate the path of understanding. The gentle guidance provided by a Tarot reading can inspire you to try something new - make a career change, take your relationship to the next level, go back to school - as well as offer spiritual assistance to enrich your life.

But the Tarot offers additional opportunities for personal growth outside of traditional Tarot readings. People all over the world have discovered that they can utilize the Tarot themselves, taking their futures into their own hands.

What can the Tarot do for Me?

Tarot enthusiasts and adherents already know about the amazing experience of a personal Tarot reading, but what about the average person? What can the Tarot do for you on a daily basis? Can you really read the Tarot for yourself? This book reveals how the incredible power of the Tarot can enhance your life every day - and how you can use the Tarot yourself to master your destiny and achieve your heart's desires.

Using clear, concise language and practical examples to unlock the secrets of the Tarot, this book helps you:

- Understand the Tarot's origins and the significance of its symbols
- Select the deck that's right for you
- Perform daily readings to prepare you for any challenge
- Identify and interpret each card in a standard Tarot deck

Sample readings are also provided to illustrate how the Tarot can be used to assist with several different scenarios.

If you're ready to take control of your life and walk an enlightened path of self-assurance and hope, read on!

History of the Tarot

The precise origins of the Tarot have been obscured by the passage of time. However, most historians agree that early Tarot decks appeared in Italy during the late 15th century. Fragments of these early decks provided the groundwork for later manifestations of the Tarot. Eventually, cards originally used for playing games became means for divining future events.

Documented evidence of Tarot cards being used for divination prior to the 18th century is scarce, but as time marched forward, various spiritual and occult movements built upon the history of the Tarot, incorporating ancient symbols and universal themes to new decks still in use today.

The most recognisable and widely used Tarot deck appeared in 1910; the Rider-Waite-Smith deck. This deck incorporates symbols from several esoteric schools of thought including the Qabalah, Alchemy, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and many others. Since the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, countless Tarot decks have become available. And with the advent of the New Age in the 1960s and 1970s, awareness of the Tarot expanded even further. As a result, the selection of Tarot card decks grew to include decks specific to virtually any aspect of New Age philosophy. Each modern deck draws upon specific symbols, artistic movements, and archetypes for inspiration, catering to a diverse range of tastes and preferences.

Today, Tarot card decks are widely available from bookstores, specialty shops, and online merchants. The ancient tradition of the Tarot is more accessible today than it has ever been before.

Chapter 2: Choosing a Tarot Deck

There are specialised Tarot decks on the market today that cater to virtually any taste or personal belief system. You can find decks that feature imagery of ancient Egypt, Elves, Cats, and even Extraterrestrials. Modern Tarot decks draw from cultures, religions, and traditions from all over the world, making it both exciting and a bit confusing when shopping for the deck that's right for you. This chapter provides a few shopping tips to help you find a deck that speaks to you personally.

When integrating Tarot into your daily life, you want to be sure that the deck you choose resonates with you personally. The cards you select should be engaging; you should feel drawn to them and the stories they tell. Remember, the goal of personal Tarot readings is to enrich your life; choose a deck you enjoy looking at and handling to make the experience as pleasurable as possible.

A few main points to consider when shopping for your Tarot deck:

- Is there a particular historical period you feel drawn to (Ancient Egyptian, Medieval, Renaissance, etc.)?
- Is there a particular culture you feel drawn to (Asian, Native American, Celtic, etc.)?
- Is there a particular esoteric belief system or religion you feel drawn to (Wicca, Asatru, Angels, etc.)?

In addition to the above, you may also find it useful to consider the images and symbols that repel you rather than attract you. After all, if you're going to be seeing these cards every day, shouldn't you like them? While imagery and labels can vary from deck to deck, most decks follow the traditional structure and meanings found in older decks, such as the Rider-Waite-Smith deck. Decks normally include instructional booklets to help you learn the unique nuances of your deck.

As a general rule, a good deck for beginners is the Rider-Waite-Smith deck. This classic Tarot deck is widely available and used by professional readers the world over, so there is a wealth of information about how to use it.

Where to Buy Tarot Cards

Most chain bookstores carry at least a small selection of Tarot decks. Check in the New Age or Occult section, or sometimes in the Games section. If you are unable to find a deck you like, check with the sales associates to see if they can order the deck for you.

Specialty shops that carry New Age supplies such as crystals, candles, and metaphysical books usually have a good selection of Tarot decks. Check your local business directory to find such a shop near you.

Online retailers and auction sites offer a huge variety of Tarot decks. You can find some truly unique and rare decks by simply searching the Web for Tarot Cards. A good site that sells Tarot decks is:

- <http://www.spiritreader.co.uk/shop.html>

Chapter 3: Start Your Day with Tarot

Incorporating the Tarot into your daily routine is an excellent way to enrich your life. Daily readings can help you prepare for your day and focus your energy on overcoming obstacles and nurturing your spirit. While the Tarot certainly cannot solve all of your problems, such as make you rich and attract the love of your life, it can certainly remind you of your own ability to affect change in your life. The power of the Tarot lies not in the predictions and secrets it reveals, but in the encouragement and inspiration to tap into your inner strength. The Tarot reminds us that we are all on a spiritual journey in which we must learn from our experiences to grow as spiritual beings.

If you've ever thought that Tarot readings were the exclusive domain of mystics, New Age adherents, or superstitious folk, think again. The lessons of the Tarot are accessible by all, not only a select few. Yes, even you can leverage the Tarot as a tool to enlighten your existence and embrace your spirituality.

Of course, if you would like to have an in-depth, professional Tarot reading, you may always contact Hayley at <http://www.spiritreader.co.uk/>.

This chapter explains how to perform simple daily readings to help guide you through your day. With a little preparation and practice, you truly can become adept at interpreting the cards and channelling their messages into positive, empowering affirmations.

Expectations

Before you even begin to read the cards, you must set some realistic expectations. Firstly, a Tarot reading cannot make decisions for you. Only you can drive your destiny. Also, a Tarot reading should never be approached as a substitute for sound legal or medical advice. If you are facing serious legal or health issues, please seek the advice of a qualified professional.

Finally, the powerful messages conveyed by the Tarot are more subtle in nature than concrete. Use the Tarot as a tool to enhance your self-awareness and recognize the strength that lies within you - not to isolate the date, time, and place of tangible events.

Before Starting a Reading

When performing a Tarot reading, it is important to create a private, peaceful atmosphere to foster the proper mindset. Creating a quiet space to perform your reading is an excellent way to begin your day - it can set the tone for a day of cool tranquility and spiritual awareness. Preparing for a reading need not be an elaborate ritual or a major inconvenience. It only entails a few simple steps you can perform in about one minute.

Preparing a Location

Obviously, time may not permit you to establish a perfectly serene, meditative location on a daily basis, but you should consider these basic guidelines:

- Find a room where you can be alone and uninterrupted for several minutes (the bathroom or your vehicle are fine!)
- Turn off (or at least away from) the television, radio, and computer.
- Select a time and place where you won't be disturbed by phone calls, text messages, etc.
- Lower the lights and/or draw the shades.
- If you are so inclined and time permits, light a candle and set out some clear quartz crystal or amethyst.

Preparing Yourself

In addition to, and more important than preparing your environment, you must prepare your mind for a reading. This exercise needn't be overly complex or time consuming; the objective is simply to clear and calm your thoughts and enter a state of relaxed awareness. When you are in the room where you intend to perform the reading, take the Tarot deck in your hand, close your eyes and take several deep breaths. Focus only on your breathing in and out. When stray thoughts enter your mind, acknowledge them, and then let that pass away as if on a stream. You should begin to feel a quiet sense of inner peace and mental relaxation. When you have reached this state, you are ready to begin your reading.

If you like, you may also utilise visualisation techniques for grounding and centering your thoughts. For example, visualise a beam of light descending from the sky, reaching the top of your head, then extending through your body and down into the Earth. Imagine the light filling you with warmth, clarity, and peace. Another visualisation frequently used by psychics is to imagine your legs sprouting roots that slowly grow deep into the ground. As the roots grow further and further down, imagine the stability and connectedness of being a tree. Let the nurturing spirit of the Earth soak up through the roots and fill you with perfect peace.

Layouts

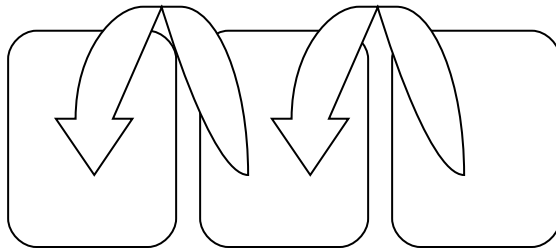
A Tarot layout refers to the pattern in which the cards are dealt to facilitate a reading. Tarot layouts range in complexity from a single card to dozens of them, where the positions of the cards affect the card's interpretation. An in-depth discussion of the myriad Tarot layouts available is beyond the scope of this book. However, some basic yet valuable layouts are provided to get you started.

Single Card Layout

For the purposes of a quick and effective Tarot reading to perform on a daily basis, the single card reading is an excellent choice. You may be surprised at how a single card can provide so many layers of information, and yet still strike the core of the present day's situation.

To perform a single card reading:

1. Prepare your space and mind as explained above.
2. Shuffle the cards gently (no bending!) as many times as you deem necessary.
3. Place the cards on a flat surface.
4. "Cut" the deck into three stacks, using your left hand and moving to the left. (See illustration below).



5. Create a single stack, again using your left hand and moving to the left, placing the stack on the far right on the stack in the middle, then that combined stack on the stack on the left.
6. Turn over the card on top. This is the card for your daily reading.

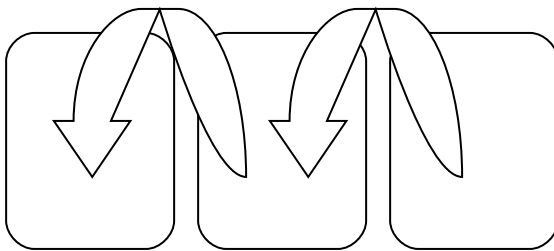
Take a moment to "listen" to the card. Are there any qualities that are striking about it? Review the card's explanation provided in this book. Does this card seem to fit into a situation currently taking place in your life? Now read the meditation for the card and reflect upon it. Absorb the card's message and turn your attention to it at various times during the day. Take notice of any events during the day that relate back to your card. The idea is not to obsess over the card you drew, but to keep the message in your pocket so to speak, calling upon it when you need guidance.

Three Card Layout

The three card layout is another quick and useful way to perform a Tarot reading. In this layout, the positions of the cards reflect the time period or sequence in which events will transpire. Use the three card layout when you want to view the “big picture” of how events in the past have influenced the present, and how this extends into the future.

To perform a three card reading:

1. Prepare your space and mind as explained above.
2. Shuffle the cards gently (no bending!) as many times as you deem necessary.
3. Place the cards on a flat surface.
4. "Cut" the deck into three stacks, using your left hand and moving to the left. (See illustration below).



5. Create a single stack, again using your left hand and moving to the left, placing the stack on the far right on the stack in the middle, then that combined stack on the stack on the left.
6. Turn over the card on top and place it face-up on your reading surface. This card represents the past.
7. Turn over the next card on the stack and place it face-up to the right of the first card you drew. This card represents the present.
8. Turn over the next card on the stack and place it face-up to the right of the second card you drew. This card represents the future.

Review the meanings of each card in your layout. Can you see how the card in the present position relates to current events? Now look at the card in the past position. What does this card reveal about how present circumstances have come to pass? Finally, focus on the card in the future position. What warnings and/or promises does it hold?

After interpreting the card meanings, read over the meditations for each provided in this book. The goal of this reading is to recognise how the past has created the present, and how

in turn, the present will create the future. Remember that the card in the future position does not depict a static, unchangeable destiny, but rather a possible outcome based on current energy patterns. Armed with the knowledge you've gleaned from the three card reading, you can focus your intentions on achieving, preventing, or coping with the events that may lie ahead.

Chapter 4: Card Meanings

Interpreting the subtle meanings of Tarot cards may seem like a daunting task, but learning to use the Tarot is definitely more of an art form than an academic pursuit. This chapter introduces you to the organisation scheme of the Tarot and provides some useful tips for gaining proficiency with reading the cards.

In addition, this chapter describes each card in the Tarot deck, offering insight into what the cards mean when encountered in a reading and helpful meditations so you can focus on the card's message in an enlightening, life-affirming way.

How the Cards are Organised

A standard Tarot deck is comprised of the following:

- **22 trump cards**, known as the Major Arcana. These cards signify major life events or themes that occur on a grand scale and have long lasting effects. The Major Arcana cards can also serve as wake up calls, providing guidance in situations where we feel stymied.
- **44 suit cards**, known as the Minor Arcana. These cards signify everyday occurrences that shape our lives in the short term. The Minor Arcana deals with the here and now, providing guidance on areas of immediate concern.
- **12 court cards**, four for each suit in the Minor Arcana. The court cards consist of a Page, Knight, Queen, and King. These cards represent either people in our lives or aspects of our own personalities. The court cards can tell us how we are behaving right now and provide models of behaviours we need to adopt or avoid.

Suits of the Minor Arcana

The Minor Arcana is divided into four suits; Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles (analogous to the clubs, hearts, spades, and diamonds found in a deck of playing cards). Each suit embodies distinct qualities and themes which manifest themselves in the images on the cards. Briefly, the suits and their corresponding features are as follows:

- **Wands** - element of fire. Represents action, achievement, and outward manifestation. Strong, forceful energy.
- **Cups** - element of water. Represents thought, emotion, spirituality. Subtle, mutable energy.
- **Swords** - element of air. Represents intellect, justice, challenges. Swift, piercing energy.

- **Pentacles** - element of earth. Represents money, material needs, stability. Warm, nurturing energy.

Study Tips

Rather than attempting to memorize specific definitions for each card, familiarize yourself with the images on the cards - what do they say to you? What words come to mind when you look at the 10 of cups for example? What emotions does the card invoke? You may want to write down some of your impressions of specific cards then compare them to the descriptions provided in this chapter.

To practice what you've learned, deal out a few cards every day and see which card definitions come to you immediately, and which ones you need to look up. In this way, you can isolate the cards on which you need to spend more time studying. A sample study schedule might look like this:

Monday	Review first four cards of the Major Arcana.
Tuesday	Review first four cards of Major Arcana again. Set aside any whose meaning you retain, hold onto any whose meaning you can't recall.
Wednesday	Review next four cards of Major Arcana, plus any cards leftover from previous day.
Thursday	Repeat
Friday	Repeat

Repeat the above schedule as many times as it takes until you are comfortable with the Major Arcana, then move on to the Minor Arcana, one suit at a time. Again, this needn't be a painful process akin to studying for a school exam; take your time, don't get discouraged, and most of all, enjoy yourself!

Major Arcana

The Fool



Meaning: A new beginning, fresh outlook, or unexplored path.

Meditation: While change can be frightening, the journey of spiritual growth requires us to face the unknown to truly evolve. It is by taking risks that we learn and mature. Believe in yourself!

The Magician



Meaning: Self-assurance, proficiency, goal-oriented, creativity, action.

Meditation: The time to act is now! You have the skills and abilities within you to create your own destiny.

The High Priestess

Meaning: Calm, waiting patiently, reflecting, exploring the unknown.



Meditation: Learn to recognize the wisdom in silence. Now is a time for quiet introspection, waiting for events to unfold.

The Empress



Meaning: Material comforts, fertility of mind and body, natural beauty, kindness and nurturing.

Meditation: Only those who recognize that each experience in our lives is a gift will ever truly be rich.

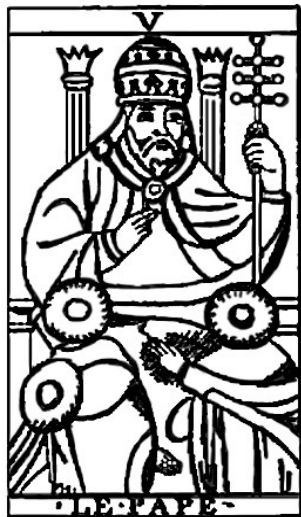
The Emperor



Meaning: Authority, leadership, organization, control over self and others, the concepts of law and order, potential for over-regulation.

Meditation: During times of chaos, order and structure are required to create a sense of balance. One must beware, however, of succumbing to or inflicting tyranny.

The Hierophant



Meaning: Power found in knowledge, membership in a group or belief system, conventionality, conformity.

Meditation: Acceptance into a club, society, or clique by definition requires adherence to set codes of conduct and belief. One must remember to avoid stifling dogmatism when learning from established authorities.

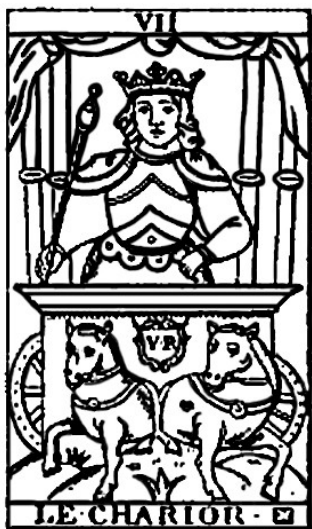
The Lovers



Meaning: An important choice is in the offing, establishing a connection with another, love that transcends lust.

Meditation: When making choices, the easiest or most attractive path isn't always the correct one.

The Chariot



Meaning: Power, success, prestige, victory.

Meditation: Be firm when you need to, and gentle when the situation calls for it. Achieving your goal requires self-control and balance.

Strength



Meaning: Personal strength and fortitude, exerting control but with compassion and acceptance.

Meditation: True strength lies not in confrontation and belligerence, but in acceptance of others and quiet grace.

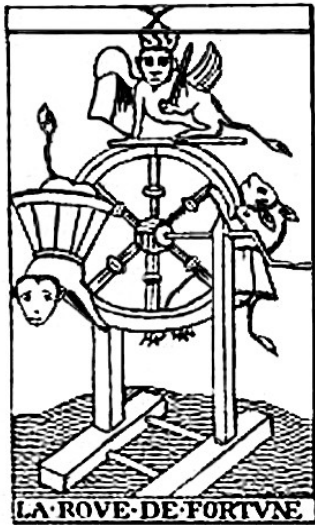
The Hermit



Meanings: Quiet introspection, seeking knowledge through careful study - possibly with a teacher or mentor, seclusion.

Meditation: Taking time to withdraw for personal reflection before taking action is not selfish, but wise.

Wheel of Fortune



Meaning: A change in fortunes, for good or ill; recognizing the cycles of life.

Meditation: Step back and look at “the big picture” to gain some perspective. Remember that life is a cycle of highs and lows.

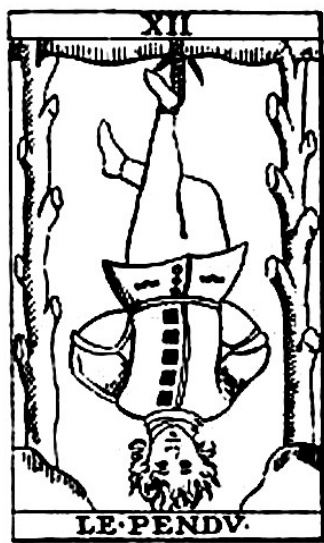
Justice



Meaning: Fairness, balanced decisions, doing the “right” thing.

Meditation: Recognize that the universe repays our good deeds as well as bad. The energy you put out will return in kind.

The Hanged Man



Meaning: Acceptance of current circumstances, changing your point of view, self-sacrifice to achieve spiritual growth.

Meditation: Rather than try and force an issue, take a step back and merely accept the outcome fate presents.

Death



Meaning: A dramatic, but necessary, change; an ending that gives way to a new chapter, abandoning outmoded circumstances.

Meditation: Change can be frightening, but is necessary for personal growth. We must allow one story to end so a new one can begin.

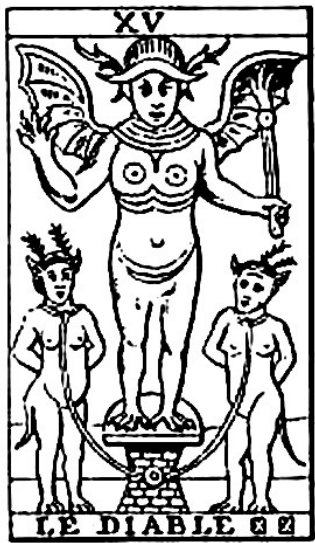
Temperance



Meaning: Balance, healing, moderation, a sense of things “coming together.”

Meditation: Avoid excessive behaviours and extreme viewpoints to maintain balance in your life.

The Devil



Meaning: Materialism, bondage to undesirable forces, having a negative and apathetic point of view.

Meditation: Abandon unhealthy situations that may seem beneficial on the surface. Embrace your spirituality.

The Tower



Meaning: Sudden change in status, an upheaval of the status quo, a shattering of illusions.

Meditation: Sudden change is never comfortable, but often necessary. Give yourself time to absorb the inherent lesson in surprise transformations.

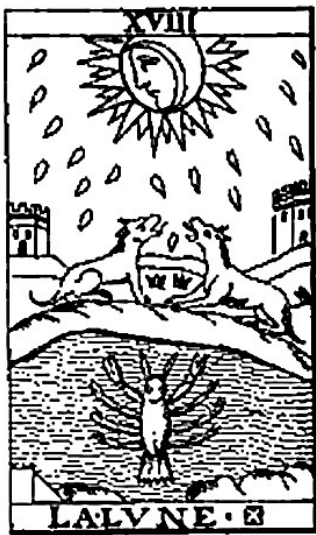
The Star



Meaning: Healing, regeneration, motivation to persevere, faith in a brighter future.

Meditation: Open your heart to the promise of hope. Choose an enlightened path.

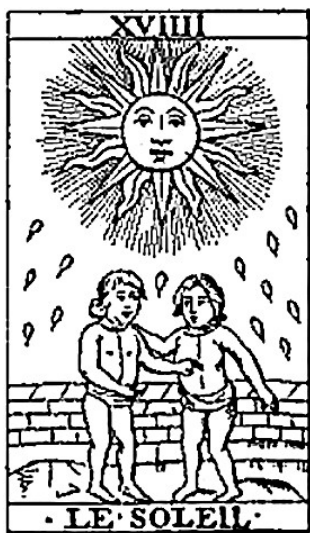
The Moon



Meaning: Being tricked by illusions, deception, experiencing confusion, fear.

Meditation: Don't let distortions of reality tempt you from your path. Cut through falsehoods to reclaim clarity.

The Sun



Meaning: Achievement, freedom, joy, savvy, attaining enlightenment.

Meditation: This is your time to shine. Take charge of your personal power and claim your prize.

Judgement



Meaning: A fresh start, giving and receiving forgiveness, finding new purpose.

Meditation: Now is a time to cast off past mistakes and commit to a more positive, enlightened future. Reject blame.

The World



Meaning: Fulfilment, realisation of a dream, attaining peace and satisfaction, actively living your life's purpose.

Meditation: Happiness is yours for the taking, if only you reach out your hand.

Minor Arcana

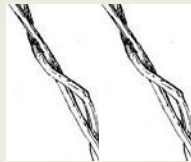
Ace of Wands



Meaning: Enthusiasm, optimism, confidence, courage.

Meditation: Channel your positive energy into a new, creative endeavour - success is within reach!

Two of Wands



Meaning: Authority, holding influence, following your own path.

Meditation: Be responsible with your power. Resist the temptation to seek power for power's sake.

Three of Wands



Meaning: Exploring a new path, assuming leadership, making plans.

Meditation: Look beyond current circumstances and study "the big picture." With confidence in your vision, pursue your goals and others will follow.

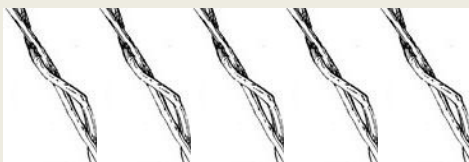
Four of Wands



Meaning: Celebration, enjoyment, a wedding or happy ceremony, a joyful release.

Meditation: Set yourself free - open yourself to the joys of life.

Five of Wands









Meaning: Arguments, competition, bothersome encounters.

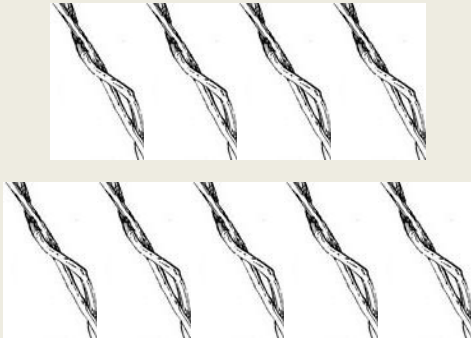
Meditation: Take on the role of peacemaker - rise above the fray and foster a sense of cooperation.

Six of Wands

Meaning: Triumph, being recognized for your efforts, high self-esteem but with the

 	<p>potential for arrogance.</p> <p>Meditation: Accept positive recognition gracefully and with humility; avoid the trap of self-aggrandizing.</p>
<p>Seven of Wands</p>  	<p>Meaning: Having the upper hand in a situation, defending your ideals, fighting for what is right.</p> <p>Meditation: Stay true to your convictions, but open to opposing viewpoints.</p>
<p>Eight of Wands</p>  	<p>Meaning: Sudden quick action, receiving a message or correspondence, bringing events to a close.</p> <p>Meditation: Be alert and aware - now is the time to act.</p>

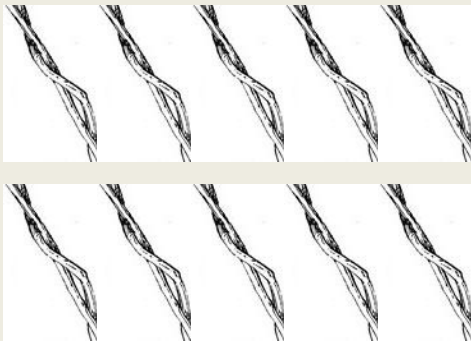
Nine of Wands



Meaning: Preparing for the coming storm, soldiering on, being steadfast.

Meditation: Life is full of bumps and bruises. Learn from them, and then forge ahead with wisdom.

Ten of Wands



Meaning: Overburdened, playing the martyr, labouring against stiff resistance.

Meditation: Learn the power of “no.” Balance your responsibilities with time to regenerate.

Page of Wands



Meaning: An opportunity for creative self-expression, being passionate, taking action.

Meditation: A chance exists for adventure, excitement, and great personal rewards - take it!

Knight of Wands



Meaning: The embodiment of daring, self-confidence, and adventure. On the negative side, may indicate a tendency toward reckless behaviour, superficiality, and confrontational personalities.

Meditation: Handle courage and passion with care or risk getting burned by the fire.

Queen of Wands



Meaning: Good physical and mental health, attractive, unsinkable.

Meditation: Adopt the positive energies of inner-strength and optimism.

King of Wands



Meaning: Creative and artistic, facing opposition head-on, a born leader.

Meditation: Approach your life with enthusiasm not casual observation. Believe in yourself.

Ace of Cups



Meaning: Letting love into your life, listening to your heart, opening up to others.

Meditation: Don't let your emotions control you, but rather channel them to affect positive outcomes.

Two of Cups



Meaning: Beginning a new relationship or healing an existing one, seeing eye-to-eye, making peace with another.

Meditation: Synchronizing your energy with another can help you achieve more than you ever could alone.

Three of Cups



Meaning: A celebration, being part of a team, sharing happiness with others.

Meditation: The support you offer today may come back to you in the future. Make use of your support system.

Four of Cups



Meaning: Lack of interest, withdrawn, missing out on the present.

Meditation: Looking within is necessary at times, but be careful not to lose touch with reality.

Five of Cups



Meaning: Feelings of grief and loss, disappointment over events you cannot change.

Meditation: No matter the loss, don't lose sight of the blessings you still have.

Six of Cups



Meaning: Happy memories, enjoying simple pleasures, interacting with children.

Meditation: Give of yourself freely, simply for the joy of giving.

Seven of Cups



Meaning: Indulging in fantasy, having several options to choose from, afraid to commit.

Meditation: Structure and order may be needed; now is the time for practical action.

Eight of Cups



Meaning: Walking away from a situation, moving on, taking a spiritual path.

Meditation: Take stock of your current situation - abandon that which blocks your growth and pursue new ways of thinking.

Nine of Cups



Meaning: Realising a dream, attaining material delights, satisfaction.

Meditation: Indulge, enjoy, and relax, but be mindful of others' needs.

Ten of Cups



Meaning: Happiness, peace within the family, feeling that all is right with the world.

Meditation: Welcome joy into your life, particularly in regards to family unity.

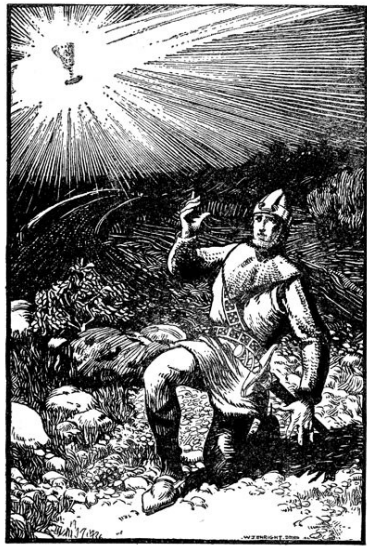
Page of Cups



Meaning: Sharing your emotions, loving someone, embracing peace.

Meditation: Love is in the air! Express your emotions and you will be rewarded.

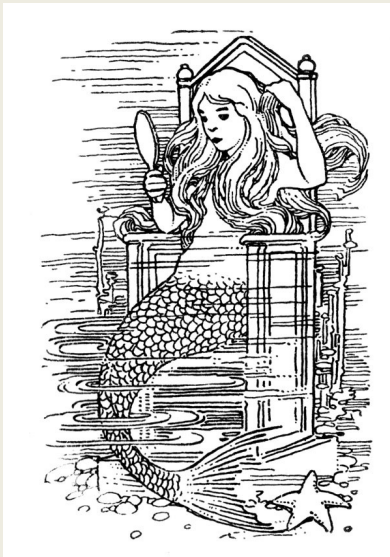
Knight of Cups



Meaning: Romance, a highly artistic and poetic individual, in touch with emotions but with a propensity towards mood swings.

Meditation: Love and beauty are wonderful ideals, but must be balanced with a healthy dose of practicality.

Queen of Cups



Meaning: Nurturing, contemplative, sensitive to psychic energy, highly spiritual.

Meditation: Now is a time to think with your heart and behave with perfect kindness.

King of Cups



Meaning: Having wisdom, compassionate, empathic, patient with less evolved souls.

Meditation: Be an oasis of calm amidst the chaos. Meet negativity with serenity, grace, and understanding.

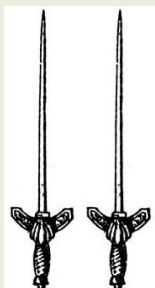
Ace of Swords



Meaning: Standing up to problems, justice, uncovering truth, relying on your wits.

Meditation: Approach challenges objectively and with integrity.

Two of Swords

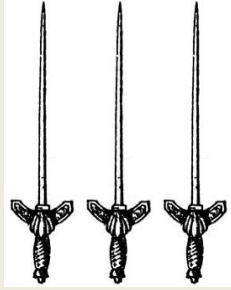


Meaning: Stifling true feelings, inertia, being in a state of denial.

Meditation: Be brutally honest with yourself - discard self-made illusions and face the truth.

Three of Swords

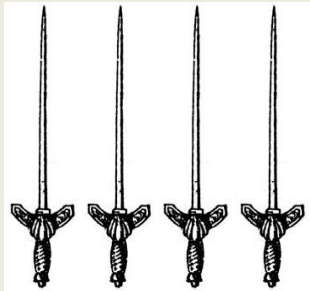
Meaning: Discovering or participating in infidelity, heartbreak, disappointment,



loneliness.

Meditation: Be on guard and take stock of your current situation - things may not be what they seem.

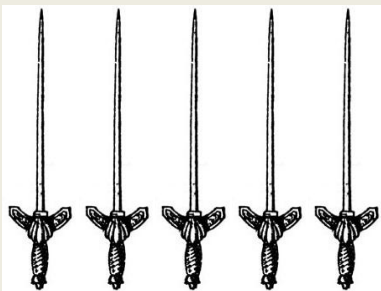
Four of Swords



Meaning: Disconnecting for a time to regenerate, getting your bearings, resting up in preparation.

Meditation: Give yourself permission to step back, recharge, and gain some perspective.

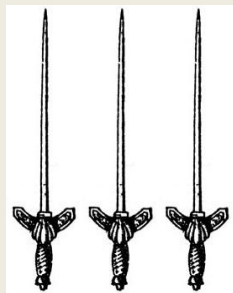
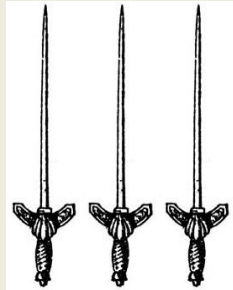
Five of Swords



Meaning: An empty victory, conflict, winning at the expense of others.

Meditation: Look beyond your own self interests when pursuing a goal. The individuals you step on today could make helpful allies tomorrow.

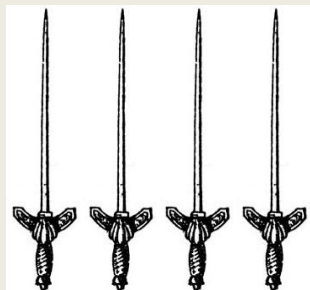
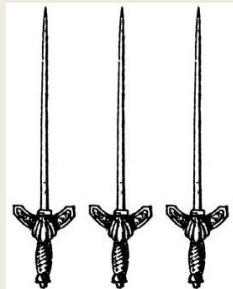
Six of Swords



Meaning: Travel - either physical or emotional, passing through a time of sorrow, just trying to get by.

Meditation: While the present time may be less than perfect, maintain your forward motion towards a brighter future.

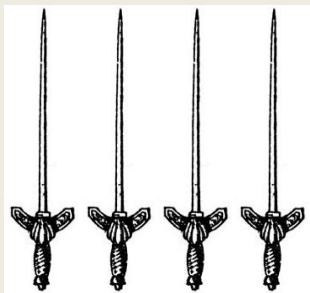
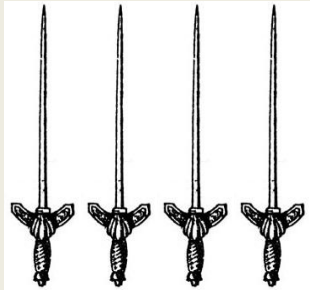
Seven of Swords



Meaning: Shrinking from responsibility, isolation from others (particularly when help is needed), engaging in deception.

Meditation: You can only go so far on your own - partnerships and teamwork are required for personal growth.

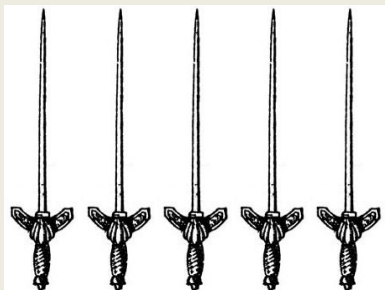
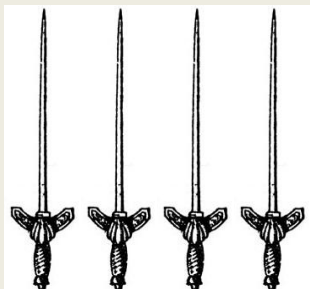
Eight of Swords



Meaning: Emotional bondage, feeling helpless, surrounded by obstacles.

Meditation: No matter how trapped you feel, there is always a path to freedom. Keep your senses about you and search for the exit.

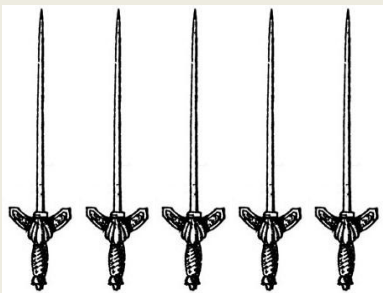
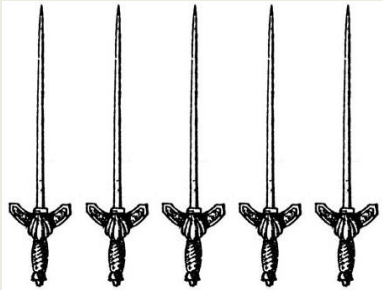
Nine of Swords



Meaning: Feeling intense guilt, focusing on problems, filled with regret.

Meditation: Strive to make positive choices, acting with honest integrity, and life will see you through difficult times.

Ten of Swords



Meaning: Feeling like all hope is gone, playing the role of victim (whether real or imagined), having nothing left to give.

Meditation: Be sure you're not exaggerating your suffering. Remember too that when times are tough, something good must be coming.

Page of Swords



Meaning: An opportunity for growth that takes the form of a challenge, a test, a person who uses intellect to achieve their goals.

Meditation: Open your mind to find the inherent value in any challenge.

Knight of Swords



Meaning: Using logic and reason, intellectual but with a tendency towards superiority, a cerebral individual possibly detached from emotions.

Meditation: Deliver your opinions with some humility; you may be coming on too strong.

Queen of Swords



Meaning: Stern and authoritative person, a sharp with that may be a tad outspoken, possessing a penetrating intellect.

Meditation: Apply critical thought to the current situation - cut through the fat and right to the heart of the matter.

King of Swords



Meaning: Highly analytical, ethical, fair and balanced, possessing advanced mental powers that may suppress creativity and emotion.

Meditation: Adopt a stance of truth and justice when facing troubles. Rise above the fray.

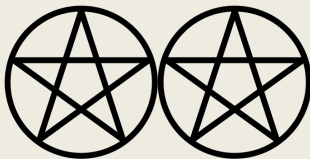
Ace of Pentacles



Meaning: Achieving material wealth, prosperity, a new business venture, a beautiful gift or blessing.


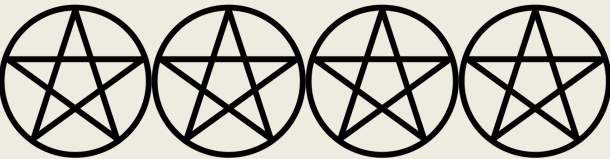
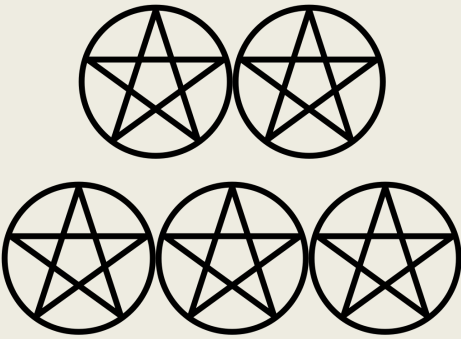
Meditation: Move away from fantasy and remain grounded to attain your goal.

Two of Pentacles

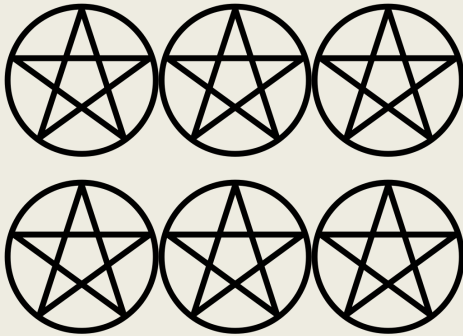


Meaning: Balance, adept at multi-tasking, handling life's challenges with ease, having fun.

Meditation: Have faith in your own ability to adapt to adversity. You have what it takes to get by.

<p>Three of Pentacles</p> 	<p>Meaning: Exhibiting proficiency at a task, working with a team, executing a job with skill.</p> <p>Meditation: Take time to prepare for the task at hand, letting others pitch in as needed, and success will be yours.</p>
<p>Four of Pentacles</p> 	<p>Meaning: Saving what you have but with a propensity towards miserliness, resisting change, having things your way.</p> <p>Meditation: Exert control carefully - inflexibility can put whatever you are protecting at risk.</p>
<p>Five of Pentacles</p> 	<p>Meaning: Falling on rough times, lacking energy or ignoring your health, feeling shut out.</p> <p>Meditation: Remember to keep sight of small blessings in your life. Nurture your spirit to minimize the pain of material setbacks.</p>

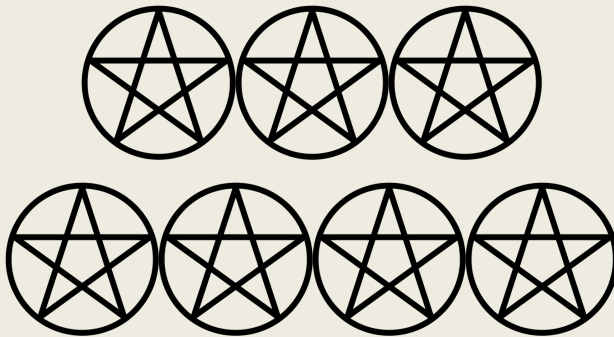
Six of Pentacles



Meaning: Depending on your perspective, giving or receiving charity; having power or being powerless.

Meditation: Analyze your current situation, and then envision yourself on the opposing side. Are you quite sure you are as good/bad off as you believe?

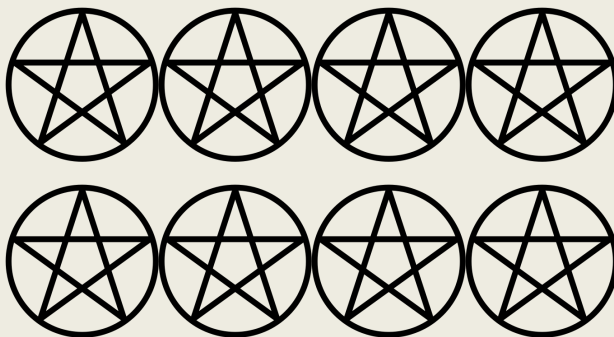
Seven of Pentacles



Meaning: Reaping the fruits of your labour, a return on an investment, taking stock of a situation.

Meditation: Pause to enjoy the rewards you have earned; then plan your next move to ensure future success.

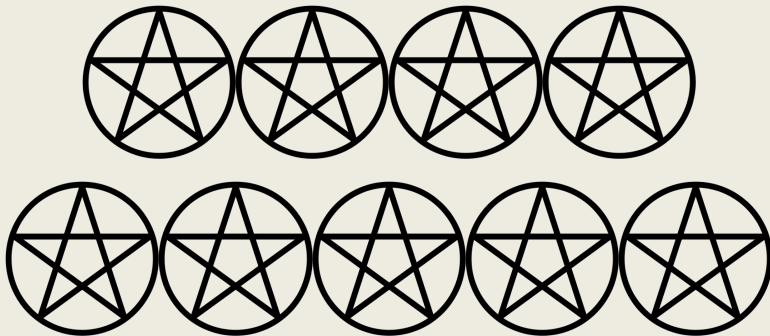
Eight of Pentacles



Meaning: Putting in some hard work, paying attention to detail, being dedicated to a job.

Meditation: Apply yourself entirely to the task at hand - the results will be worth the effort.

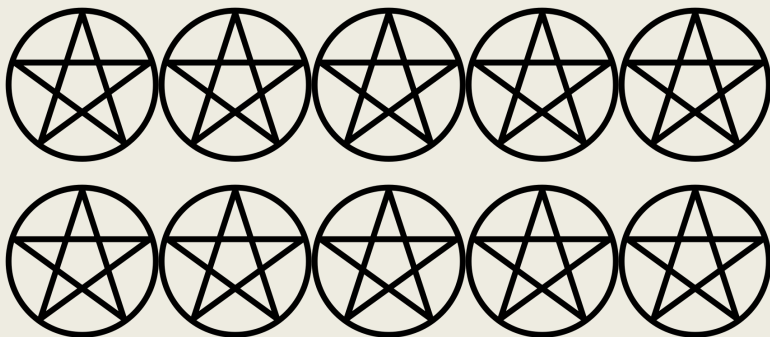
Nine of Pentacles



Meaning: Being self-reliant, enjoying luxury and comfort, a gracious character.

Meditation: Indulge in art, music, or great literature - treat yourself to a higher aesthetic.

Ten of Pentacles



Meaning: Financial security, settling down, looking for long-term stability.

Meditation: Start thinking on a more permanent lifestyle free of dramatic ups and downs.

Page of Pentacles



Meaning: Realising goals through hard work, staying committed to a plan or person, acting practically.

Meditation: You have a chance to achieve your dreams - proceed with pragmatism and a solid work ethic to ensure success.

Knight of Pentacles



Meaning: Hardworking but with a tendency towards overdoing it, reliable, detail oriented.

Meditation: Perseverance and integrity are excellent attributes, but remember to enjoy yourself now and then.

Queen of Pentacles



Meaning: Loving and nurturing, an earth mother type, generous, someone you can count on.

Meditation: Get in touch with your caring side - compliment a friend, read to a child, hold the door for a stranger - and you will enjoy spectacular rewards.

King of Pentacles



Meaning: A savvy businessperson, supportive of others, goal oriented.

Meditation: Are you someone people count on? Your responsibility and dependability have earned you the admiration of many.

Chapter 5: Sample Readings

These sample readings are provided to illustrate how the Tarot can be applied to everyday life. The names and events in these readings are completely fictitious but hopefully they will assist you in your own readings. And remember, the guidance provided by the Tarot is no replacement for sound judgement - you are ultimately responsible for your own decisions.

Sample 1 - Mary

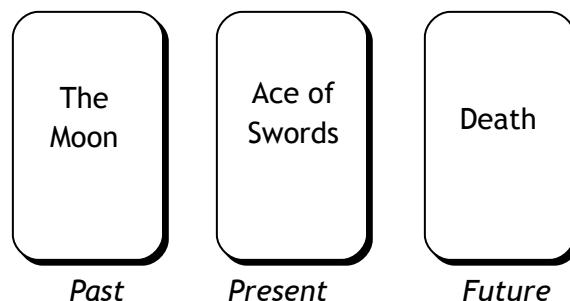
Mary works in a busy office in the city. In her fast-paced working environment, Mary often finds that short tempers and jangled nerves surround her, making her anxious for the day to end.

Mary draws the five of wands on Monday morning. She focuses on the meaning of the card; that her day will be filled with minor conflicts, hassles, and competition. She reminds herself that patience and a level head will persevere through this stressful day and that better days will follow. Armed with this knowledge, Mary sails through her day of spilt coffee, grumpy co-workers, and rude motorists.

Sample 2 - Helen

Helen has been living with her boyfriend James for three years. In secret, she has wished that James would propose marriage and that they'd set up house together. However, friends have been warning Helen about James's flirtatious behaviour around other women. They tell her that James may be unfaithful to Helen, but Helen refuses to believe it. And, despite answering phone calls from strange women, finding credit card receipts from restaurants Helen's never been to, and catching James in obvious lies, Helen stubbornly clings to the idea that James is "the one."

Helen performs a three card Tarot reading, drawing the cards as follows:



With the Moon card in the Past position, Helen realises that she has been living in a dream, surrounded by deception that she has chosen not to see. In the present position, Helen finds the Ace of Swords - suggesting that she approach a problem with a clear mind and objectivity. In the future, Helen sees the Death card. An established situation is about to come to an end.

Helen reflects upon the cards in her reading. Has James been deceiving her? Is their relationship over? What next? Remembering the message of the Ace of Swords, Helen looks at her situation objectively, unclouded by emotion. The signs of James's lack of commitment have been painfully obvious, but Helen has turned a blind eye to his behaviour. With renewed mental clarity, Helen penetrates to the truth in the situation, confronts James, and discovers the reality of their relationship. She ends their relationship. Although the ending is painful, Helen recalls the Death card's meaning - that this chapter of her life must end in order to move on to a new and exciting future.

Sample 3 - Mark

Mark recently graduated from university and is employed as a business analyst at a large financial firm. The hours are long and the work is dull, but the salary is excellent. Mark recognises that his work leaves him a bit empty, but he has grown accustomed to the material stability - a swanky flat in the city, designer label suits, and the elite status that comes with it all. So what if Mark doesn't have time for relationships or hobbies? Who has time for spiritual growth these days?

A friend of Mark's gives him a deck of Tarot cards. Mark doesn't put much stock in the occult or metaphysical matters, but he draws a card anyway. The Devil. Mark looks up the meaning and is stopped dead in his tracks.

The Devil cautions Mark against becoming a slave to materialism. Could Mark's jaded point of view and complete devotion to the pursuit of wealth be leading him down the wrong path? Fortunately, the Devil card also reveals that Mark has the power within him to change his lifestyle. The bonds to wealth and possessions are illusory; you are free to choose a higher path at any time.

With all this in mind, Mark takes a much needed vacation from work and focuses on the things he enjoyed doing before his career - spending time in nature, practicing his guitar, and reading. While perusing the travel section at the local bookstore, Mark reaches for a book at the same time as an attractive young woman. They share a smile, and Mark suddenly feels more alive than he has in years.

Sample 4 - Angelica

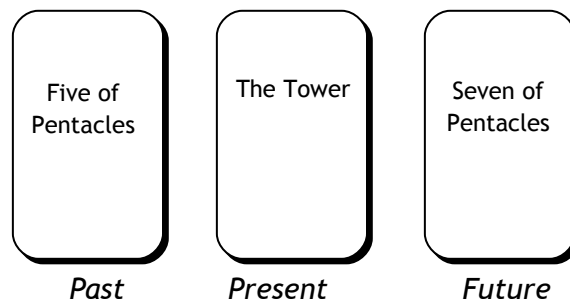
Angelica is a divorced single woman who has never had children of her own; something she regrets quite a bit. Angelica has been dedicated to her law career for many years, but recently she's been looking for something more nurturing and fulfilling to do with her time. She recognises the need to feed her soul, but how?

In a daily reading, Angelica pulls the six of cups and she actually laughs out loud. This card represents kindness and charity, particularly involving children. Angelica realises that the answer to her spiritual hunger has been staring her right in the face. That week, Angelica signs on as a volunteer at a local children's hospital, where she now spends evenings reading stories, playing games, and chatting with sick children. The simple joy of seeing those children's faces light up when she enters the room fills Angelica's heart to overflowing.

Sample 5 - Paul

When it comes to issues of career and finances, Paul has always taken a devil-may-care attitude. He hops from job to job, never putting in much effort while employed, and spends his money frivolously. Paul's lost count of how many times he's borrowed money from family, and yet he just can't seem to get serious about money matters.

Last week, Paul was fired from yet another job, and his parents have refused to extend him another loan. Depressed and defeated, Paul doesn't know where to turn. He finds an old Tarot deck among his scant possessions and decides to deal a three card spread. Here is what he sees:



Immediately, Paul is struck by the fact that two out of the three cards are pentacles - the suit of practical concerns such as personal wealth, career, and stability. The five of pentacles in the past sums up Paul's recent history pretty accurately; wandering through a labyrinth of failures and hardships. In the present, the Tower card appears. Paul's pattern of financial reversals and carefree attitude are coming to an abrupt end. The Tower gives Paul the sense that his life yesterday and his life tomorrow will be completely different entities. Finally, the seven of pentacles appears in the future. Paul reflects on this card's meaning, that diligence and hard work lead to success and security.

This impromptu reading hits Paul like the bolt of lightning depicted in the tower. The message is clear - Paul's money problems are about to come to an abrupt end, but only if he adopts a solid work ethic. Paul knows that he's never given 100% to his assigned tasks at work, but here is the Tarot reflecting back to him what he's already known inside, but been afraid to accept outwardly.

Realising that the irresponsible, careless lifestyle he's been living must not continue, Paul begins to accept that he needs to focus and increase his level of effort in order to stabilize his chaotic life.

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